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Witness in Plot Investigation Hints a Cuban Link

COLUMBUS, Ohio, April 3 (AP) — Vague references to Cuba and to an investigation into the assassination of President Kennedy highlighted a court appearance today by a former night club operator.

The references were made by Gordon Novel, 29 years old. He remained in jail in lieu of $10,000 bond after appearing in Columbus municipal court on a fugitive charge filed formally today by the police from suburban Gahanna, where he was arrested Saturday night.

Mr. Novel was picked up at the request of the New Orleans district attorney, Jim Garrison, who wants him as a witness in his inquiry into the Kennedy assassination. The fugitive charge stemmed, however, from a count of conspiring to commit burglary, which Mr. Garrison also filed.

Mr. Novel showed up before Judge Wilbur Shull without a lawyer and began arguing his own case for a low bond.

"I used to do work for Garrison, in fact, I did some of the investigating in this so-called plot. I've got a lot of charges of my own to make about him," he said.

Mr. Shull interrupted before he could say any more.

It was the first indication Mr. Novel might have been part of the Garrison investigation.

Later Mr. Novel said he had heard it said that he planned to return to New Orleans voluntarily but, "I did not intend to do that because of this Cuban . . ."

This time his attorney, Jerry Weiner, interrupted and silenced Novel. Mr. Weiner appeared in court while Mr. Novel was talking.

Technically, the municipal court case was continued for 30 days. But Mr. Weiner said the extradition proceedings probably would supplant further action in municipal court. He noted that extradition papers had not arrived at the office of Gov. James A. Rhodes.

Mr. Rhodes' chief aide, John McElroy, said that requests for extradition were rarely refused, but that it could take weeks.

Cuban Exile Held

DALLAS, April 3 (AP) — The Dallas police today arrested Sergio Arcacha Smith, self-identified as a former anti-Castro Cuban leader, on a warrant issued by District Attorney Jim Garrison of New Orleans.

Mr. Arcacha was released on bond of $1,500 after he was arraigned before Justice of the Peace Charlie Davis. The warrant accused Mr. Arcacha of conspiring with the late David Ferrie and Gordon Novel, now jailed in Columbus, Ohio, to commit burglary.

Mr. Garrison says that Mr. Ferrie conspired with Lee Harvey Oswald and others in the assassination of President Kennedy.

Mr. Arcacha, who has admitted knowing Mr. Ferrie, insists he knows of "nothing pertinent I could tell the New Orleans people."

Mr. Garrison, alleged in the arrest warrant that Mr. Arcacha, Mr. Novel and Mr. Ferrie conspired to burglarize a Houma, La., munitions bunker in 1961.

Trial Restriction Imposed

NEW ORLEANS, April 3 (UPI)—Judge Edward A. Haggerty Jr. today banned all persons officially connected with the assassination conspiracy trial of Clay L. Shaw from talking about the case.

Mr. Shaw, former managing director of the New Orleans International Trade Mart, is scheduled to be arraigned Wednesday on charges of conspiring to assassinate President Kennedy.

Judge Haggerty said he was issuing the orders to assure a fair trial and to curb "the unchallenged chatter that hits the print and radio and television media between the time of arrest and the time of trial."